

Message Text

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SUBJ: DUTCH RECOMMEND GUIDELINES FOR DNA/RNA RECOMBINANT RESEARCH

REF: A) 76 THE HAGUE 3816; B) 76 STATE 298844

1. IN A REPORT PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT MARCH 30, THE COMMITTEE FOR GENETIC ENGINEERING OF THE DUTCH ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES IN COOPERATION WITH THE HEALTH COUNCIL IN THE NETHERLANDS SUBMITTED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGAL MEASURES FOR THE CONTROL OF RESEARCH INVOLVING RECOMBINANT DNA. THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE BASED PRIMARILY ON GUIDELINES AS CONTAINED IN THE WILLIAMS REPORT (UK) ON THE PRACTICE OF GENETIC MANIPULATION. THEY CALL FOR COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF ALL DNA RECOMBIANT RESEARCH IN THE NETHERLANDS, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUPERVISORY BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTROL OF ONGOING GENETIC RESEARCH, ALSO ACTING AS AN ADVISORY BODY FOR RESEARCHERS AND INSTITUTIONS ON SAFETY MATTERS. THE NEW BODY WILL REPLACE THE COMMITTEE FOR GENETIC ENGINEERING NOW ACTING AS A CONTROLLING BODY ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE FOR GENETIC ENGINEERING AND THE HEALTH COUNCIL, GENTIC ENGINEERING IN THE NETERLANDS SHOULD ALSO INTRODUCE A RISK CLASSIFICATION OF DNA RECOMBINANT IN LINE WITH THE NIH GUIDELINES AND THE CATEGORY I THROUGH IV CONTAIN-
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MENT CLASSIFICATION IN THE WILLIAMS REPORT. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT NO EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO ESTABLISH A C IV LEVEL LABORATORY IN THE NETHERLANDS. ALL RESEARCH IN THIS RISK CATEGORY SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN SPECIAL LABORATORIES DEVELOPED UNDER AUSPICES OF THE EUROPEAN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY LABORATORY (EMBL). WITH REGARD TO THE C III LEVEL, RECOMMENDATIONS ARE MADE TO PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AT LEAST ONE LABORATORY IN THE NETHERLANDS

TO COMPLY WITH THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR RESEARCH IN THIS
CATEGORY. FINALLY DNA RECOMBINANT RESEARCH IN THE C I AND
C II CATEGORIES MAY BE CARRIED OUT IN THE EXISTING FACILITIES
(AT PRESENT ONLY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEIDEN). DNA
RECOMBINANT EXPERIMENTS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED BUT NOT YET
STARTED AT THE UNIVERSITIES OF AMSTERDAM, GRONINGEN AND
NIJMEGEN. UNILEVER RESEARCH LABORATORIES IS THE ONLY
COMMERCIAL INSTITUTION PREPARING FOR DNA RECOMBINANT RESEARCH.

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